

# Rousse Tower no.11

1778 - 1779  
17th - 19th Century Defences

## 32 Pre-Martello Loophole Tower

At the outbreak of the American War of Independence in 1776 France became an ally of the Americans - an act which put them in direct conflict with England. Loyal to the English Crown the Channel Islands found themselves in very real danger of attack or invasion by the French.

As a response to this threat 15 Loophole Towers were built around the coast of the Island between August 1778 and March 1779.

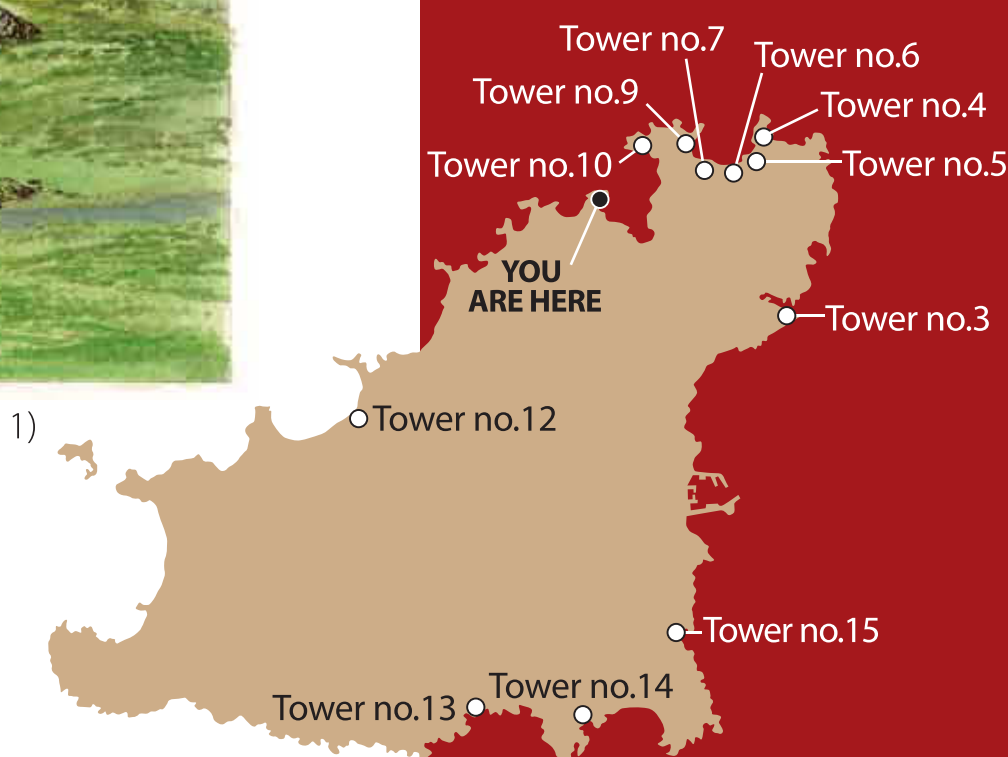
The towers were an integral part of a more comprehensive line of defence which ran around the coastline of the Island. This included forts, cannon batteries and other defensive works. The towers were intended to function as guard houses and barracks and to support nearby cannon batteries.



Illustration showing Rouse Tower and Battery c. 1816 (Brian Byron 2011)



Other Loophole Towers  
can be found along Guernsey's coastline



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